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Grande Prairie

AND THE

Peace River
District

1919

Issued by
Grande Prairie Board of Trade



**Grande Prairie Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce.
Incorporated by the Dominion Government under
The Boards of Trade Act.**

Representing the entire Grande Prairie Land District

OFFICERS 1919

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(President, Crummy Bros., Ltd.)

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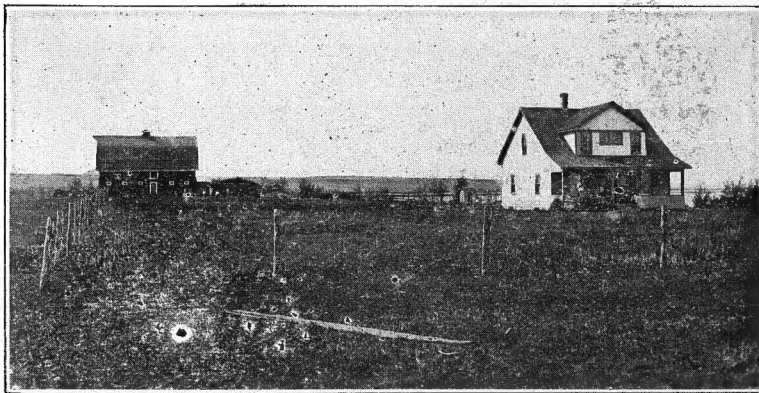
OFFICES—Grande Prairie City, Alberta.

Communications should be addressed to, **J. Fitzallen; Secretary, Box 48**
Grande Prairie City.

The Grande Prairie Land District is that section of the famous "Peace River country" lying south of the Peace River and extending west from R 20, W. 5th Mer. to the Rocky Mountains, including that portion of British Columbia called "The Peace River Block" the whole of which is usually referred to as "Pouce Coupe." The north line of Tp. 66 might be termed the southern boundary of the district. Grande Prairie contains the bulk of the population of the entire North Country, and has reached a stage of development, in the few short years of settlement, that emphasizes the progressive type of the pioneers of the District as well as the unequalled agricultural resources and other natural advantages of the country.

The story of the settlement of the Grande Prairie District, is one teeming with human interest. Commencing some 12 years ago with the long heart breaking trek over hundreds of miles of winding "trails", traversing a country of bottomless muskeg and swamp, resulting in reality in the "survival of the fittest" only, down to the present day when the settler steps from the train in Grande Prairie City and finds accommodation of every description rivalling that in the Cities of the South, and after surveying the most progressive and rapidly growing town in Western Canada, is enabled to travel for hundreds of miles through the rural portions of the District by automobile, over splendid roads, viewing farms and buildings which would indicate a settlement of fifty, rather than ten, years.

Space, however, will not permit of any review of the different stages and events which have led to the present high state of development and prosperity, suffice it to say that Grande Prairie, so aptly termed an "Inland Empire," has become, despite the fact that within its borders are hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile soil still lying idle, one of the most productive areas in all of Western Canada.

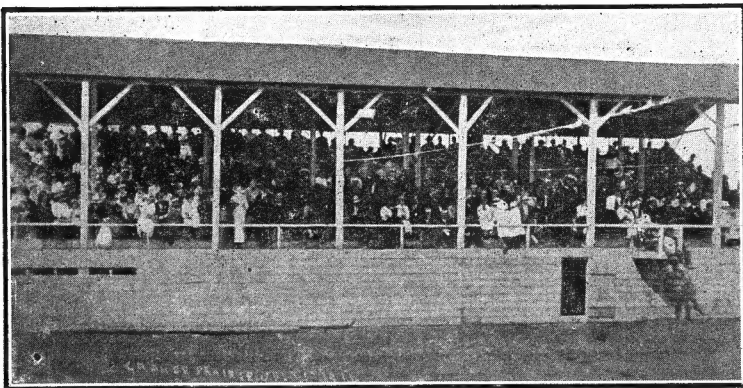


(A Grande Prairie Farm Scene)

IT'S RESOURCES

First and foremost of the resources of this great district comes Agriculture. On this, alone, its present prosperity is founded. Other resources, however, such as timber, coal and mineral, together with tremendous water power, not to mention the strong indications of oil, are all to play their part in the future of Grande Prairie. Although, as the name implies, it is decidedly a prairie country, there are tributary to it, several of the greatest tracts of merchantable timber to be found in Alberta. This is located largely in the unsettled portions of the district to the south of the Wapiti River and on both sides of the Big Smoky south of its junction with the Simonettee and the Wapiti. These immense tracts, coupled with patches containing millions of feet of timber to be found in the outlying districts both to the east and west of the Prairie section, augmented by the smaller patches with which the Prairie itself is dotted at frequent intervals, are bound to make the lumbering industry one of the great factors in the development yet to come. This great asset is as yet practically untouched. It might be mentioned, however, that the rivers along which the timber berths are usually located, flow from both the east and west into the Big Smoky, in the very heart of the Prairie. By river driving, the marketing of this product will be simplified and the centralization of the lumbering industry in the heart of the Prairie assured. Of coal there is an inexhaustible supply. The only deposit so far to be mined is one some 25 miles to the west of Grande Prairie City. The larger fields, however, are located to the south and west of the Grande Prairie Country and are considered among the most important of the whole world, surpassing, by assay, the Pennsylvania, and rivalling the Welch coals. The years of financial stringency have delayed the development of this great asset, but financiers of world-wide reputation are again indicating their interest in these immense coal beds, and that development along these lines is to make Grande Prairie a bee hive of industry cannot be disputed.

So far as other minerals and oil are concerned, no definite information is available at this time, insofar as the Grande Prairie district is concerned, other than that, although little prospecting has been done, ample evidence of the existence of wealth in these forms has been repeatedly furnished.



Section of Grand Stand at Grande Prairie Agricultural Society Fair,
Grande Prairie City

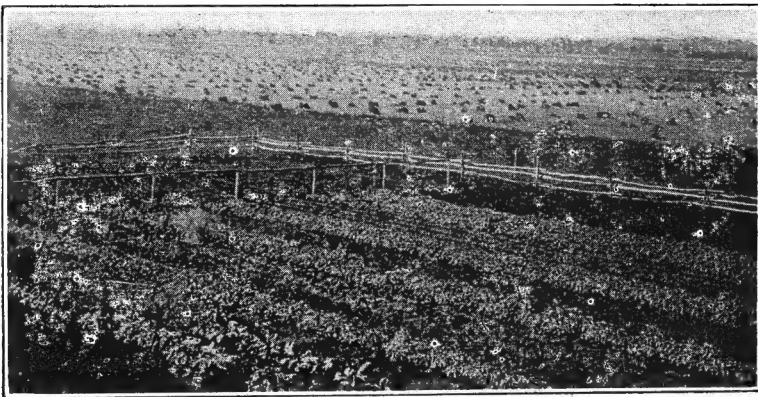
Government Inspection of Pure Bred Stallions

**FARMING**

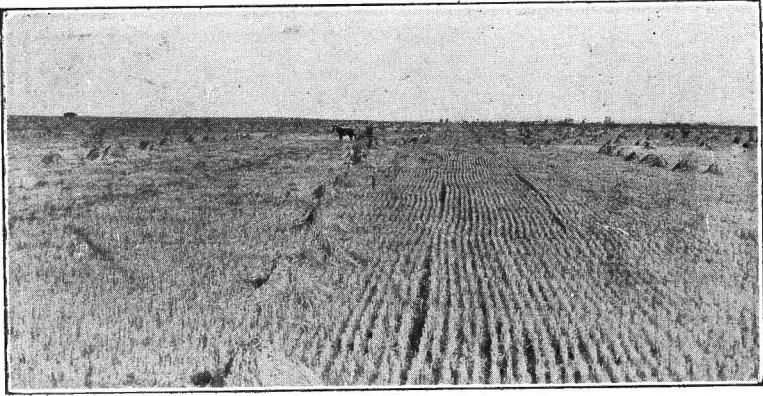
As a farming community the Grande Prairie district has long since emerged from the experimental stage, and grain growing has been the predominating industry since its first settlement. The country is particularly well suited to dairying and mixed farming and both of the latter are engaged in with unvarying success, and the certainty of bountiful rewards. The natural growth of grasses and pea-vine in the outlying districts is phenomenal, and stock raising has proven one of the great sources of wealth of the community.

The **SOIL**, although varying in different localities, is generally a rich black loam averaging about 20 inches in depth with a clay sub-soil.

SEEDING usually commences about the middle of April and the exceptionally long hours of sunshine, coupled with the unfailing abundance of rain, advances the crops at a rate which is unbelievable, to one who has not witnessed it. During the summer months there are from 16 to 20 hours of sunshine daily. Owing to the long hours of twilight during the winter months the days are **not correspondingly short**. Daylight prevails in the winter months about the same number of hours as in Eastern Canada or the Central States.



A Typical Grande Prairie Farm Scene



AVERAGE CROPS

The 'Peace River Guide', an Edmonton publication, devoted to the publication of statistics of the production and resources of the Province of Alberta, estimates, with the approval of the Commissioner of Publicity of the Provincial Government, the ordinary crop of the Peace River country as averaging to the acre, oats, 60 bushels, wheat, 40 bushels, barley, 45 bushels, potatoes, 400 bushels. As to the quality of the grain produced, suffice it to say that the **prize winning wheat** of the Chicago World's Fair was raised in the Peace River country.

A total crop failure has never been experienced in any section of the Peace River country, and damage from drought, wind or hail is practically unknown. **Vegetables** grown consist principally of carrots, beets, onions, celery, cabbage, garden peas, beans, tomatoes, lettuce, radish, turnips, pumpkins and squash.

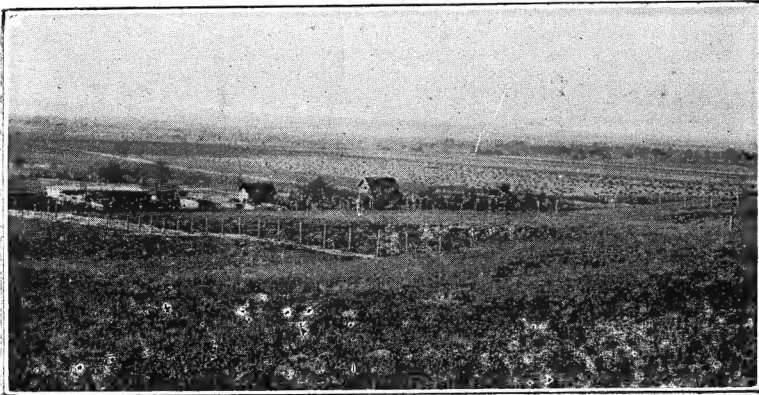


THE 1919 CROP

In the year 1919 there was in that part of the Peace River district tributary to Grande Prairie City, approximately 125,000 acres in crop. About 10 per cent. consisted of green feed, 10 per cent. of barley, rye and flax, 33 per cent. of wheat and about 47 per cent. of oats. There would be approximately 800,000 bushels of wheat and 2,400,000 bushels of oats to be threshed.

After allowing for the requirements of the district for seed, feed and domestic use there would be about 600,000 bushels of wheat and 1,200,000 bushels of oats offered for shipment. To illustrate the volume of this production, it might be mentioned that, allowing 1000 bushels of wheat and 1800 bushels of oats to the car, and 12 cars per train, one train per day, for 105 days, would be required to move the crop.

(The foregoing figures were extracted from an estimate included in an address delivered to the Board of Trade at its regular monthly luncheon in the Grande Prairie Hotel on September 11th, 1919, by Mr. W. F. Stevens, Representative of the Department of Agriculture for the Peace River District, and a recognized authority on Agriculture.)



CLIMATE

By reason of its westerly location the Grande Prairie district is, in regard to climatic conditions, possibly more favorably situated than any other part of the great north west. What would otherwise doubtless be a severe winter climate, is tempered by the prevalence of the warm winds from the coast. The storms and blizzards of the central west are unknown and although at times the temperature becomes severe, such spells are invariably of but short duration, and are broken by long spells of beautiful, invigorating, clear sunny days. Taken altogether the winter season is much preferable to that of either the North Western States or the Prairie Provinces and is, with its numerous sports, such as skating, ski-ing, curling, hockey, tobogganing and sleigh-riding, with a little moose or bear hunt now and then thrown in, a season not only healthful but thoroughly enjoyable.

The other three seasons cannot be surpassed in any part of the world. The days are warm without being extremely hot, and the nights are invariably cool. The oppressive sultry heat of the East is never experienced.

ALTITUDE

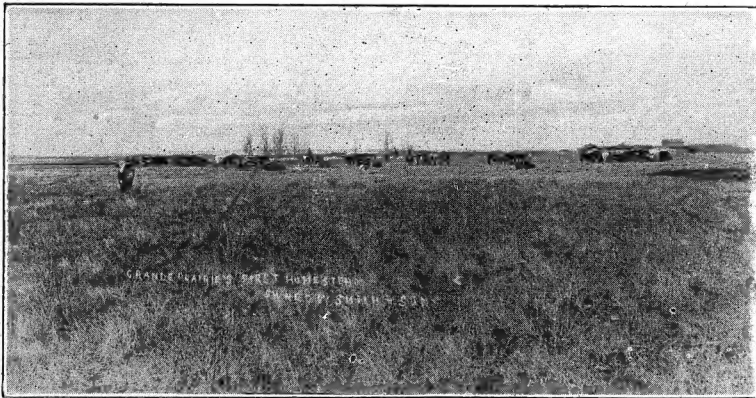
The plateau elevation is 2500 feet.

EXPORT OF LIVE STOCK

Although the large part of the live stock movement continues inward, shipments to the Edmonton Market are being made from Grande Prairie City, by special stock train, semi-weekly, under the direction of the Grande Prairie Live Stock Shipping Ass'n.. Northern stock is in special demand on the outside markets.



A Portion of a Choice Herd of Pure Bred Herefords Owned by Webber, La Glace P. O., Grande Prairie.



The First Herd in the Grande Prairie District, the Nucleus of a Herd Brought in Over the Trail in 1910 by W. H. Smith & Sons. The Owners During the Past Two Years Have Been Heavy Shippers to the Edmonton Market, Where Their Stock Commands Especial Comment.

Grande Prairie Farm Lands as an Investment

Improved farm lands within a radius of 30 miles of Grande Prairie City may be purchased at prices ranging from \$15. to \$40. per acre, and that, where funds permit, it is better to purchase an improved farm within easy access of the railway, than to go further back to homestead, cannot be disputed. However the point is, that as compared with the price of lands located elsewhere and certainly not more productive than Grande Prairie, they are unreasonably cheap at the present time. For instance, the average price of land in the state of Iowa is \$169. per acre, Illinois, \$144., Indiana, \$100., while the average price of farm lands of the whole of the U. S. is \$74.31.

Now there are two reasons for the cheapness of Grande Prairie farm lands as compared with other lands of less productive powers, the first of these being, of course, the fact that until recently, splendid open land could be secured gratis within a reasonable distance of the railway. This condition is rapidly becoming a thing of the past, and values will be immediately enhanced as a result.

The second great reason is the inadequacy of the present railway facilities, the freight charges in marketing the products of the district eating up an unnecessarily large portion of the profits of the producer. This condition, however, is about to become a thing of the past, as the arrival of the steel of the Canadian National Railway, which it is confidently expected will occur during the year 1920, will cut the present freight haul in half, and will leave Grande Prairie, with its never failing production, in a position but slightly inferior as regards marketing facilities with either the southern part of the Province or of the Western States, but; this is not all; When this same road is completed

Through to The Coast

by the shortest mountain haul and the easiest grade on the Continent what will be the result? The result will be that our products will go west and Grande Prairie will be not only the most productive area in America, but will also, by means of the ocean routes, have a decided advantage over any of the other districts west of the Great Lakes in respect to world markets.

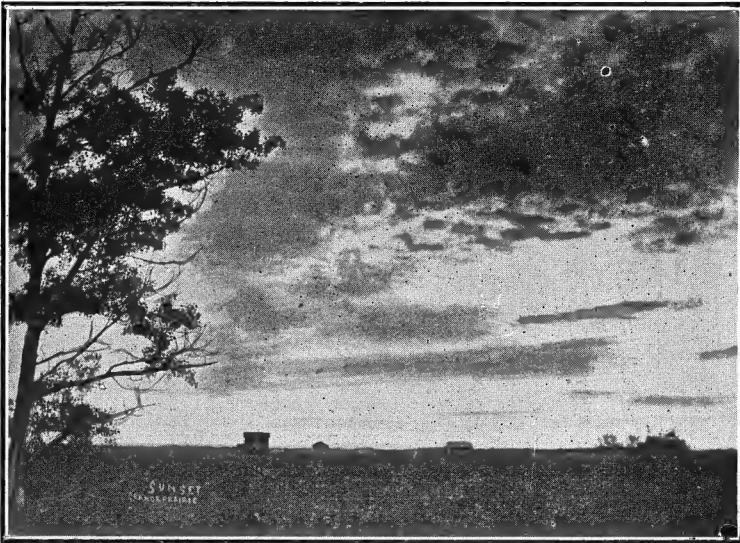
In view of these great changes in the status of the community which are about to take place, can any one doubt the golden opportunities which Grande Prairie farm lands afford the investor who prefers an absolutely safe investment offering the certainty of the same big returns as are looked for in those of a more speculative nature.





RAILWAY FACILITIES

Grande Prairie is served at present by the E., D. & B. C. Rly., which in spite of a circuitous route, has sufficed to make the marketing of the crops of the district possible up to the present time. The Canadian National has a branch under construction however, the end of steel being only 150 miles from Grande Prairie, which, when completed, will traverse the Grande Prairie district from east to west and afford an outlet at the Pacific Coast for the products of the entire Peace River country, as well as providing a short and direct connection between Edmonton and Grande Prairie City, which, by this line, will be only separated by 250 miles.



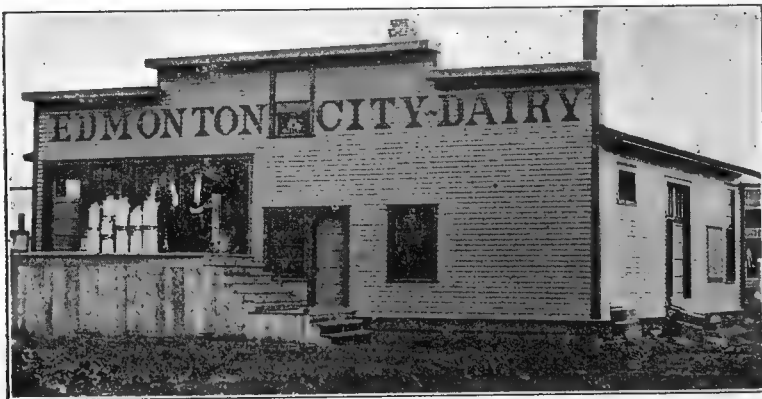
Sunset at 11 p.m. One of the Secrets of the Remarkable Growth Peculiar to the Peace River Country



AREA, AVAILABLE HOMESTEADS, ETC., ETC.

In speaking of the Grande Prairie District one does not usually realize that a territory containing over 20,000 square miles is referred to. Immigration to the district has been so heavy ever since settlement first commenced that it is now necessary for the prospective homesteader to go distances of from thirty to sixty miles from the railway terminus at Grande Prairie City to locate on free land. However, by latest reports, there still remains 1,323,000 acres of suitable agricultural land already surveyed and available for homestead entry. This land is mostly situate on the East side of the Big Smoky River, both to the North and South of the Simonettee, extending in an easterly direction to the Eastern Boundary of the District. The settlement of this Eastern Section is progressing very rapidly at the present time. The Grande Prairie Branch of the Canadian National will pass through it, and nothing will then be lacking to make it the same type of thriving community as the portion of the District lying to the West of the Big Smokey.

Detailed Information as to Lands Available for Homestead Entry May be Had by Writing F. L. Christie, Agent Dominion Lands, Grande Prairie



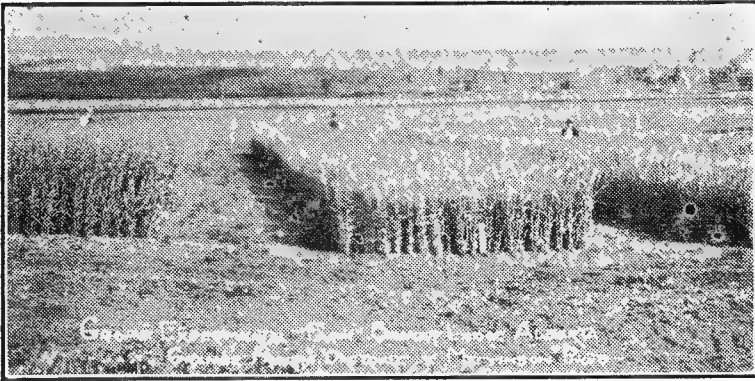
Grande Prairie City Branch

EDUCATION

The same high standard of public school education for which Alberta is noted prevails in the Grande Prairie district, and schools are located at close intervals throughout the length and breadth of the entire settled portion of the district. Grande Prairie City boasts of one of the most completely and modernly equipped high schools in the Province, and in this institution the farmers' sons and daughters may receive, without charge, instruction in all the higher subjects usually included in the high school curriculum.

SETTLERS

The Peace River Country has Attracted Settlers of an Exceptionally Desirable Type. The Population Consists Almost Entirely of English Speaking Peoples

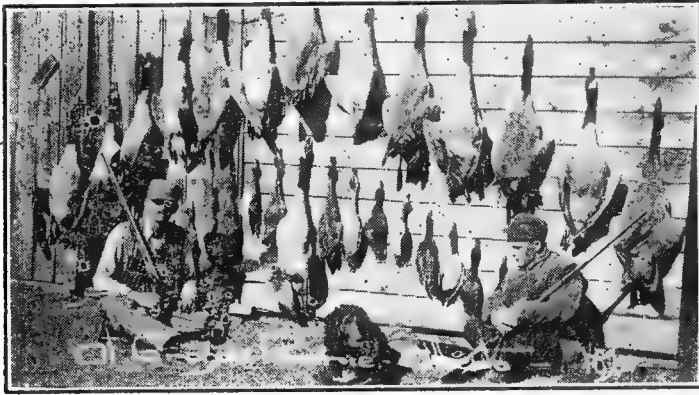


Scene at the Grande Prairie Experimental Farm Operated by the Dominion Government Under the Able Supervision of Mr. W. D. Albright

MACHINERY AND LIVESTOCK

By reason of the immense stocks carried and large annual turn-overs, the merchants of Grande Prairie City are in a position to supply everything in the line of farm implements, machinery, gasoline tractors, furniture, household effects, and general merchandise at prices comparing most favorably with those prevailing in the larger cities outside.

Several of the large firms of livestock dealers known throughout the West, conduct sales of pure bred horses and cattle daily in the city, and by reason of special shipping arrangements are enabled to offer high class stock at attractive prices.



A HUNTER'S PARADISE

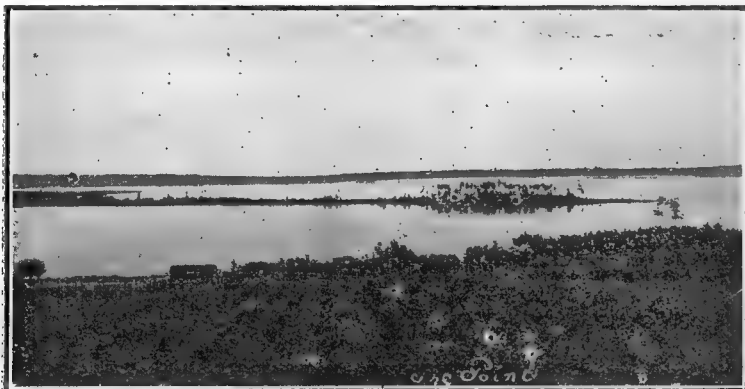
Grande Prairie, encircled as it is by majestic rivers, hills and vast forest stretches, where the stillness is broken only by the cry of the lynx or the bark of the fox or the coyote, may indeed be termed a Hunters' Paradise.

The Valleys of the Simonettee, the Wapiti and the Lordly Smokey, where berries of a hundred different varieties may be found ripening in the early Fall, form the particular feeding grounds of the bear in this particular season.

Imagine shoving off in a raft into the rippling waters of the Wapiti just south of the city; getting an occasional pot shot at a moose, bear or deer as you drift noiselessly down the winding stream through scenery the wild grandeur of which it is impossible to describe; stop here or there to drop a line into an inviting eddy alive with the delicious Mountain, Dolly Varden or Salmon Trout, running anywhere from a half to twenty pounds in weight, and finally towards evening you gliding suddenly out into the broad waters of the Smoky at Bezanson, from whence it is but an hour's ride by motor back to Grande Prairie.

Picture this and you have a slight idea of one of the many little week end excursions, chuck full of sport and excitement, which may be completed in a day.

For wild fowl; just a half hour from the city by car will bring you to any one of a dozen crystal lakes, where the geese and ducks are simply waiting in swarms. Bear Lake, the most popular of these, the silvery waters of which stretch for miles, washing patches of beautiful sandy beach, with here and there a summer home, shaded by clumps of poplar or spruce, is rapidly becoming a typical summer resort, with accommodation for bathing and boating, and offering exceptional attractions for the lover of angling, shooting or yachting.



GRANDE PRAIRIE CITY, THE METROPOLIS OF THE GREAT NORTHLAND

It was, of course, to be expected that in a great country, blessed with such exceptional resources as Grande Prairie, a trade centre of no mean size or importance was bound to develop.

Any doubt as to the location of this great commercial and industrial centre has gradually but surely disappeared, and today we find Grande Prairie city growing and developing at a rate nothing short of phenomenal, and its future as the metropolis of the North and one of the great cities of the West absolutely assured.

Grande Prairie has at no time experienced a slump. But a mere hamlet at the commencement of the war, it built up steadily during the darkest hours in history, until, on the signing of Peace, it had taken its place as one of the leading towns of the Province of Alberta.

This phase, however, was but the beginning. Immediately on the close of hostilities, such an interest in Grande Prairie city on the part of the great financial institutions and other corporations of Canada became manifest as could convey but one meaning, and its significance is unmistakable. Since that time its population has at least tripled. The only limit to building operations has been the available supply of materials and labor. There has been a feverish demand for inside business and trackage properties, not by speculators but by the great corporations whose names are almost household words from the Atlantic to the Pacific.



Montrose School, Grande Prairie City.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Although a marked demand has developed for residential property and a noticeable increase in values taken place, the prices are such as to afford opportunities of investment such as may hardly be overestimated. In this connection let it be stated that there has been absolutely no wild catting in Grande Prairie city and none of the subdivided portions of the town are more than one half mile removed from the business centre. Residential property in this radius is changing hands at the time of going to press at prices ranging from \$50.00 to \$300.00 per lot.

YESTERDAY



Third Avenue South—1916.

The two illustrations will convey some idea of the transformation that has been taking place during the past three years in what is now Grande Prairie City. With the immense influx that is now taking place into the Peace River Country, and under world wide conditions so much more favorable than during the term just passed, who can foresee the growth that this young city will attain during the coming year.

The growth already attained has been under the most adverse conditions in history and has been the result of the partial development of the agricultural resources of the district. One should bear in mind, however, that this agricultural development has but really commenced, and that the other great resources referred to elsewhere in this booklet have not yet been even touched.

TODAY



Third Avenue South—1919.



Kathryn Prettie Hospital. Large Additions Have Since Been Made and an X Ray Added to the Equipment



"WHAT SHALL I BRING"

The mails constantly convey the question from intending settlers, "Shall I bring my furniture" or "Will it pay to bring my car" or "Would I be able to replace my piano." In answer to such queries it can only be said that Grande Prairie has numerous mercantile concerns of almost every classification, offering merchandise of every description, anywhere from muslin underwear to gas tractors, at prices comparing favorably with those existing in any part of the West.

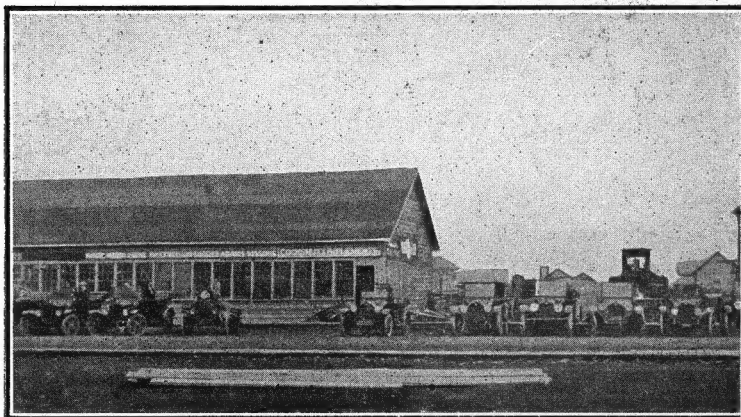
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TAXATION

Although but in its infancy Grande Prairie has made progress in the way of the installation of modern conveniences and improvements, which would almost belie the fact that the indebtedness of the corporation is almost negligible, by reason of which the annual tax levy is entirely controllable by the Council for the time being. This condition is due to the fact that until recently the money markets of the world were not in a condition to encourage promiscuous borrowings, the result being that a large portion of Grande Prairie's capital expenditures have been made from current revenue. This has, of course, necessitated the placing of an undue proportion of the cost of permanent improvements on the ratepayers of the two years just past. The result, however, is that the hamlet of yesterday and the town of today faces its future as one of the great cities of the West with almost an entirely clean sheet.

Grande Prairie has splendid streets and pretty drives. It boasts of educational facilities second to none. Its high school is furnished with the most modern equipment and apparatus obtainable. No expense is spared to ensure the best instruction available in all grades and departments. It has a hospital, recently enlarged and modernly equipped, supplied with the only X Ray outfit north of Edmonton.

The **Waterworks System**, installed in the year 1917, is efficient and is capable of extension to meet all demands, from time to time, as the growth of the city warrants. The same may be said of the **Electric Light** plant. Installed to meet immediate demands, but consisting of the best equipment procurable, the whole plant was selected and installed with a view to fitting in advantageously in the greater system required in the years to come.

This is the young city, with a clean past and a glorious future, that opens her arms to welcome the young man with a little capital and a lot of ambition to the unique opportunities that beckon in Grande Prairie, "The best in the West."



Previous publications got out by this Board have contained a detailed list of all businesses and professions represented, but owing to the rapidity of the growth of the town this is no longer practicable. A few of the larger public institutions, organizations and corporations are mentioned below, and information as to any particular trade, business, profession or industry will be gladly furnished by the Secretary.

BANKING INSTITUTIONS

Union Bank of Canada

(Branch opened 1913.—Large new building erected 1918.)

Merchant's Bank of Canada

(Branch opened 1918.—Large new brick building under construction at time of going to press.)

Imperial Bank of Canada

(Branch opened 1918.—New site for building acquired 1919)

Canadian Bank of Commerce

(Branch opened 1919.)

Royal Bank of Canada

(Acquired site in October, 1919)

Four other Banks negotiating for sites at time of going to press.

GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

The following Government Institutions are located in Grande Prairie City:

Dominion Government Land Offices and Dominion Government Crown Timber Inspector's Office

(New building erected 1919.)

Dominion Government Re-Distributing Post Office

(New quarters provided 1919.)

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks

(Headquarters for District.) (New quarters provided 1919.)

Alberta Provincial Police Barracks

(Headquarters for District.) (Erected 1918 and enlarged 1919.)

Alberta Provincial Government Department of Agriculture

(Headquarters for Peace River District.) (W. F. Stevens, representative.) Offices and farmer's reading rooms erected 1919.

PUBLIC SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Grande Prairie Lodge, No. 105, A. F. and A. M. (Instituted 1918.)

Prairie City Lodge No. 135, I. O. O. F., (Instituted 1919)

Grande Prairie Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce

Canadian Club

Great War Veterans' Association, (1919)

Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, (1917)

Red Cross Society, (1915)

Grande Prairie Trotting Association, (1919)

Grande Prairie Agricultural Association, (1914)

Grande Prairie Tennis Association, (1917)

Grande Prairie Sports and Athletic Association (1916)

Grande Prairie Curling Ass'n. (Covered rinks erected 1919)

Grande Prairie Chess Club (1919)

Grande Prairie Club Limited, (1915)

Grande Prairie Baseball Association, (1915)

THEATRES

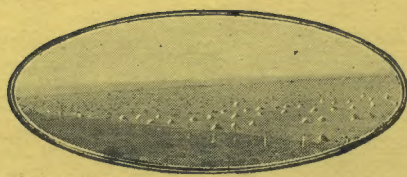
Grande Theatre, (1916)

Covered Skating Rinks

Currie and Son, (size) erected 1919

Bowling Alleys

American Bowling Alleys



Grande Prairie Herald Limited Print